

Social Service Human Relations Board

Minutes of the Regular Meeting, Thursday, March 24th, 2005

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL – President Franz called the meeting to order at 7:35p.m. Present were Vice President Chen, Members Hollinger Jackson, Bonta, Hanna and with a late arrival of Flores-Witte. Absent was Wasko and staff present were Beaver, Harris and Brown.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – The February 24, 2005 meeting minutes were approved. M/S Hanna, Bonta and unanimous with one abstention. 4/0/1

REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PUBLIC SERVICE FUNDING ALLOCATIONS - Explaining that his agency is an applicant for CDBG funds, President Franz recused himself and asked Vice President Chen to preside over this item.

Staff provided an overview of the CDBG Request for Proposal process and explained that the Board has been requested by the Council to review staff recommendations regarding public services funding. Staff noted that the City submits its application to the Department of Housing and Urban Development in conjunction with a consortium of other CDBG-funded agencies in Alameda County, and that the Action Plan and Strategic Plan document and respond to priorities developed at the Consortium level. The Board reviewed the Public Service recommendations, which total 15% of the annual Entitlement plus program income totaling \$254,717. This is a reduction of 50,000 from last year. To address the shortfall, staff is recommending substantial reductions in two programs (Child Care Vouchers and Recreation Scholarships) that serve individual recipients, and much smaller cuts of 4% in all other programs. Staff explained that small cuts in programs could threaten the viability of the program and the recommendations are based on trying to maintain the integrity of services to the community. No new proposals are being recommended for funding. Staff explained that additional funds might become available in October based on increased program income in the last quarter of 2004-05.

Vice-President Chen thanked staff for the tough task of making and providing these recommendations. It was asked if there were other services besides ARPD and BANANAS where cuts wouldn't threaten the whole program and staff responded that there are not. In response to a question about the gap in funding for Child Care Vouchers, staff replied that fewer children will be served and that BANANAS are active grants writers and hopefully will look for State funding.

Speakers:

Hugh Cavanuagh, Alameda Food Bank introduced Board Member Karen Wellman and thanked staff and the Board for past support. He reviewed the Food Bank's funding history, which started at \$5,000, then went to \$12,500, then to \$19,800 and back down to \$18,900, even though families being served has doubled over the years. Other funds they need are raised through grants, but mostly private solicitation of over \$40,000 per year. The Food Bank has expanded from one to two facilities and they now have to maintain a management position to coordinate services, maintain the inventory and conduct outreach and administration. They are in the process of recruiting a full-time Executive Director. They anticipate a need for the trailer on Thau Way to be upgraded soon.

Doug Biggs, Alameda Point Collaborative stated the Board is grateful for the Technical Assistance funding from the City and that APC purposely didn't ask for Public Service funds. the Technical Assistance funding helps us work smarter and better. He thanked the Board and staff for the helpful

and user friendly process in CDBG funding. There are approximately 200 homeless units on the Point, some transitional housing and some permanent housing. The average tenant is a single head of household coming from a domestic violence situation. APC and its partner agencies help tenants with shelter, job training, counseling and other supportive services. Biggs noted that supportive housing is cheaper than jails and emergency shelters. The children are receiving afterschool care and socialization skills. APC runs on an annual budget of about \$2 million, which includes all property management.

Jim Franz, American Red Cross, thanked the Board and staff for the hard work of such decisions and, even though ARC asked for less and got less, they are in agreement with the recommendations. With CDBG funds, the ARC has been able to leverage needed funds for helping 200 families in Alameda and is the only safety net service provider open from 8am to 5pm, Monday through Friday. Along with helping the HIA tenants relocate the ARC recently launched a VITA site at Chipman Middle School with help from AUSD and DSD. Volunteers have been working seven Saturdays which is up from three last year. In terms of safety net services, they are always in a triage situation. They haven't seen much of an increase in the number of people needing services, but the amount of service and related costs have increased substantially. Many have been forced out of Alameda because they cannot afford to live in Alameda.

A motion and second (Hollinger Jackson/ Flores-Witte) to support the staff recommendations for public service funding and recommend that any additional funds becoming available later in the year go to safety net services was approved 4/0/1. Under discussion it was agreed that the report to the Council should reiterate the SSHRB's recommended focus areas and explain the rationale for the cuts. Vice President Chen will sign the letter to Council with Hollinger Jackson reviewing. Chen will represent at the Council meeting on April 19th. 5/0

Vice-President Chen closed the item and Franz resumed the podium to chair the balance of the meeting.

WORK GROUP STATUS REPORTS

Assessment and Awareness Workgroup:

President Franz, reported that the Work Group met on March 10th and March 24th to review prior assessments. They hope to make this new Needs Assessment a living documents. There will be an Alameda Services Collaborative lunch on April 6th and hopes are to have a draft available for service providers to comment on. This work group will be reviewing the Renewed Hope survey.

Family Services Workgroup:

Member Bonta reported the Work Group continues to plan for the Festival of Families and has been convened regularly. There is a great partnership with Southshore and they have extensive support with resources. There is a plan to launch the needs survey at this event. Wilma Chan's office will be sending the invite letter with an RSVP due by April 22nd. A draft budget was handed out and will be discussed at an upcoming meeting.

Sister City Workgroup:

Vice President Chen reported on the possibility of a delegation going to China for Sister City Week in Wuxi, October 4-6, 2005. The Work Group is planning a community reception and dinner to introduce the Sister City Project to the community and to welcome China's Acting Ambassador in San Francisco and an official delegation from Wuxi, China on Monday, May 16, 2005. It will be at Aroma Restaurant and the cost will be \$35 per person. Spokane, WA is hosting an annual International Sister City Conference on July 27-31, 2005. The Lunar New Year event on Bay Farm Island was a big hit, and about 35 signatures were gathered for interest in upcoming events.

BOARD / STAFF COMMUNICATIONS Staff reminded the Board to get their Form 700 to the City Clerk by Friday, April 1. The anti-hate film, "Not In Our Town", will be showing at the Grand Lake Theater on April 6th at 7:pm, free. Business cards for the Board in a generic format is \$25. per box of 250. Member Flores-Witte asked about changing meeting times or days. President Franz handed out forms for the Annual Hero's Breakfast, which is May 12th. Member Hanna gave a brief review of the Alameda County Human Relations Commission meeting March 1, and stated the focus currently is to diversify the group, and the next meeting is in April.

ADJOURNMENT President Franz adjourned the meeting at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Beaver
Secretary, Social Service Human Relations Board

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